

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1. (Currently amended) A method of spraying an aerosol spray, comprising:

providing a grounded nozzle and an electrode separated by a predetermined axial
distance;

placing said electrode at a high electrical potential relative to said nozzle, either of
positive or negative polarity, thereby creating an electric field between said nozzle and said
electrode;

ejecting a liquid or powder from said nozzle towards said electrode to atomize the ejected
liquid or powder into aerosol droplets or particles so that in the applied electric field between
said nozzle and said electrode, said electrode being at a predetermined distance from said aerosol
droplets or particles, said aerosol droplets or particles obtaining an induced electric charge, which
is of the same polarity as the high voltage electrode, and

after the aerosol droplets or particles pass the vicinity of said electrode, forming a
directed spray of aerosol droplets or particles having a desired shape and with sufficient
momentum and electric charge so that said directed spray of aerosol droplets or particles is
deposited on a target.

2. (Withdrawn by Examiner) A method of spraying an aerosol spray, comprising:

providing a nozzle and an electrode separated by a predetermined distance;

placing said electrode at a high electrical potential relative to said nozzle, either of

positive or negative polarity, thereby creating an electric field between said nozzle and said electrode;

ejecting a liquid or powder from said nozzle towards said electrode to atomize the ejected liquid or powder into aerosol droplets or particles so that in the applied electric field between said nozzle and said electrode, said electrode being at a predetermined distance from said aerosol droplets or particles, said aerosol droplets or particles obtain an induced electric charge, which is of the opposite polarity as the high voltage electrode, and

after the aerosol droplets or particles pass the vicinity of said electrode, forming a directed spray of aerosol droplets or particles having a desired shape and with sufficient momentum and electric charge so that said directed spray of aerosol droplets or particles is deposited on a target.

3. (Withdrawn by Examiner) A method of spraying an aerosol spray, comprising:

providing a grounded nozzle and an electrode separated by a predetermined distance;

providing a grounded conductive cover around said nozzle and said electrode, said cover having an opening that allows a directed spray to exit;

placing said electrode at a high electrical potential relative to said nozzle, thereby creating an electric field between said nozzle and said electrode;

ejecting a liquid or powder from said nozzle towards said electrode to atomize the ejected liquid or powder into aerosol droplets or particles so that in the applied electric field between said nozzle and said electrode, said aerosol droplets or particles obtain an induced electric charge, which is of the same polarity as the high voltage electrode, and

after the aerosol droplets or particles pass the vicinity of said electrode, forming a directed spray of aerosol droplets or particles having a desired shape and with sufficient momentum and electric charge so that said directed spray of aerosol droplets or particles is deposited on a target.

4. (Withdrawn by Examiner) A method of spraying an aerosol spray, comprising:
providing a grounded nozzle and an electrode separated by a predetermined distance;
providing a grounded conductive cover around said nozzle and said electrode, said cover having an opening that allows a directed spray to exit;
placing said electrode at a high electrical potential relative to said nozzle, thereby creating an electric field between said nozzle and said electrode;
ejecting a liquid or powder from said nozzle towards said electrode to atomize the ejected liquid or powder into aerosol droplets or particles so that in the applied electric field between said nozzle and said electrode, said aerosol droplets or particles obtain an induced electric charge, which is of the opposite polarity as the high voltage electrode, and
after the aerosol droplets or particles pass the vicinity of said electrode, forming a directed spray of aerosol droplets or particles having a desired shape and with sufficient momentum and electric charge so that said directed spray of aerosol droplets or particles is deposited on a target.
5. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The method of claim 3, wherein said liquid or powder has an electrical resistivity in the range of 200 Ohm-cm to 40 kilo-ohm-cm.

6. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The method of claim 4, wherein said liquid or powder has an electrical resistivity in the range of 200 Ohm-cm to 40 kilo-ohm-cm.
7. (Withdrawn by Examiner) An apparatus to spray aerosol particles, comprising:
 - a spray gun having at least one electrically conductive and grounded nozzle;
 - a pressure source to force powder or fluid through said nozzle wherein the exiting powder or fluid forms a stream of aerosol particles or droplets; and
 - an electrode with high electric potential disposed at a distance from said nozzle and from said stream of aerosol particles or droplets, wherein the electric potential creates an electric field that charges said stream of aerosol particles or droplets.
8. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:
 - an electrical connection to said electrode; and
 - an insulating electrode holder surrounding said electrical connection to said electrode, said insulating electrode holder having a concave shape for preventing the formation of a continuous wetted surface between said electrode and a grounded surface.
9. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said electrode holder is made of a material with which said stream of aerosol particles or droplets has a low coherence force, i.e., the attraction force between the particles and the target.
10. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said electrode is not disposed close enough to the nozzle to permit electric charge to leak through said stream of sprayed aerosol particles or droplets before said stream of sprayed aerosol particles or droplets are fully separated or said electrode is disposed too far away from said nozzle that the electric

field between said electrode and said nozzle is too low to induce electric charge in the said stream of sprayed aerosol particles or droplets.

11. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

an opening of said electrode dimensioned so that the distance between said electrode and said stream of sprayed aerosol particles or droplets does not permit the electric charge on said stream of sprayed aerosol particles or droplets to leak through said stream of sprayed aerosols or too far so that the electric field is too low to induce the electric charge.

12. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a grounded conductive cover surrounding said nozzle and said electrode.

13. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a manifold;

a second nozzle mounted on said manifold; and

wherein said electrode has a shape adapted to provide the same distance between said electrode and said nozzle and said second nozzle.

14. (Currently amended) A method of spraying an aerosol spray, comprising:

providing a grounded nozzle and an electrode separated by a predetermined axial distance;

placing said electrode at a high electrical potential relative to said nozzle, thereby creating an electric field between said nozzle and said electrode;

ejecting a liquid or powder from said nozzle towards said electrode to atomize the ejected liquid or powder into aerosol droplets or particles so that in the applied electric field between

said nozzle and said electrode, said aerosol droplets or particles obtain an induced electric charge; and

after the aerosol droplets or particles pass the vicinity of said electrode, forming a directed spray of aerosol droplets or particles having a desired shape and with sufficient momentum and electric charge so that said directed spray of aerosol droplets or particles is deposited on a target.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the polarity of the induced electric charge on said aerosol droplets or particles is the same as the polarity of said electrode.

16. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The method of claim 14 wherein the polarity of the induced electric charge on said aerosol droplets or particles is opposite to the polarity of said electrode.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

providing a grounded conductive cover around said nozzle and said electrode, said cover having an opening that allows a directed spray to exit.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said aerosol droplets or particles are at a predetermined distance from said electrode.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said liquid or powder has an electrical resistivity in the range of 200 Ohm-cm to 40 kilo-Ohm-cm.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

providing an electrical connection to said electrode; and

providing an insulating electrode holder surrounding said electrical connection to said electrode, said insulating electrode holder having a concave shape to keep said electrode holder dry and thereby preventing formation of a continuous wetted surface between said electrode and a grounded surface.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said electrode holder comprises a material having a low force of attraction for said droplets or particles.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said providing an uncharged nozzle and an electrode separated by a predetermined distance further comprises:

providing an uncharged nozzle and an electrode separated by a predetermined distance in a direction of spraying.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said aerosol droplets or particles obtain an induced electric charge by direct contact with said electrode.

25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein said predetermined axial distance is equal to or greater than approximately 0.3 inches.

27. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein said predetermined axial distance is between approximately 0.3 inches and approximately 1.5 inches.

28. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein said predetermined axial distance is between approximately 0.8 inches and approximately 1.4 inches.

29. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein said predetermined axial distance is approximately 1.1 inches.